IN THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of the claims follows and replaces any prior versions.

1   1.   (Currently Amended) A data recording media comprising <u>servo information</u>

2   <u>recorded on servo tracks interspersed between</u> a plurality of extended format sectors, the

3   extended format sectors comprising a user data sector field for storing user data and a backup

4   indicator field for indicating the status of the user data sector field.

1   2.   (Original)   The data recording media of claim 1 wherein the backup

2   indicator field indicates whether the user data in the user data sector field has been written to

3   backup storage subsequent to a previous backup operation.

1   3.   (Original)   The data recording media of claim 1 wherein the backup

2   indicator comprises a single bit.

1   4.   (Original)   The data recording media of claim 1 wherein the backup

2   indicator comprises an indicator of whether the user data in the user data sector field has been

3   written to backup storage subsequent to a previous backup operation and data indicating the

4   age of the user data in the user data sector field.

1   5.   (Original)   The data recording media of claim 1 wherein the backup

2   indicator indicates whether the user data sector field has been written to.

1   6.   (Original)   A data storage system, comprising:

2   a magnetic storage medium having servo information recorded on servo tracks

3   interspersed between a plurality of extended format sectors;

4   a motor for moving the magnetic storage medium relative to a magnetic head

5   assembly; and

6   a head assembly having at least one read head for reading and writing data on the a

7   plurality of extended format sectors;

8   wherein the extended format sectors further comprises:

9   a user data sector field for storing user data; and

10   a backup indicator field for indicating the status of the user data sector field.

1   7.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 6 wherein the backup

2   indicator field indicates whether the user data in the user data sector field has been written to

3   backup storage subsequent to a previous backup operation.

1   8.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 6 wherein the backup

2   indicator comprises a single bit.

1   9.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 6 wherein the backup

2   indicator comprises an indicator of whether the user data in the user data sector field has been

3   written to backup storage subsequent to a previous backup operation and data indicating the

4   age of the user data in the user data sector field.

1   10.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 6 wherein the backup

2   indicator indicates whether the user data sector field has been written to.

1   11.   (Original)   A data storage system, comprising:

2   a host computer system;

3   a first set of storage volumes;

4   a second set of storage volumes for backing-up data from the first set of storage

5   volumes; and

6   a controller for controlling the transfer of data from the host system to the first and

7   second set of storage volumes, wherein at least the first set of storage volumes further

8   comprises data recording media including a plurality of extended format sectors, the

9   extended format sectors comprising a user data sector field for storing user data and a backup

10   indicator field for indicating the status of the user data sector field.

1   12.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 11 wherein the backup

2   indicator field indicates whether the user data in the user data sector field has been written to

3   backup storage subsequent to a previous backup operation.

1   13.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 11 wherein the backup

2   indicator comprises a single bit.

1   14.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 11 wherein the backup

2   indicator comprises an indicator of whether the user data in the user data sector field has been

3   written to backup storage subsequent to a previous backup operation and data indicating the

4   age of the user data in the user data sector field.

1   15.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 11 wherein the backup

2   indicator indicates whether the user data sector field has been written to.

1   16.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 12 wherein the first set of

2   storage volumes is arranged as a virtual space wherein the host views the configuration as

3   being a storage device having a first predetermined size and the controller allocates storage

4   space from the first set of storage volumes having a physically smaller size than viewed by

5   the host.

1   17.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 16 wherein the controller

2   periodically determines which sectors have been written using the backup indicator to predict

3   when the host will need additional physical space.

1   18.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 16 wherein the controller

2   allocates additional storage space on the first set of storage volumes before the host requires

3   additional storage space to minimize delays to the host.

1   19.   (Original)   The data storage system of claim 18 wherein the controller

2   reads the backup indicator to determine when a usage threshold have been exceeded.

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1   20.   (Currently Amended) A method for tracking the status of writes to areas of a

2   storage device, comprising:

3   a)   initializing a storage system and clearing a backup indicator field in an

4   extended format sector used for indicating the status of a user data sector field of the

5   extended format sector;

6   b)   setting the backup indicator when a host writes to a user data sector field; and

7   c)   reading every sector included in a host user area of [[the]] a system drive and

8   backing-up only user data sector field in the extended format sectors having the backup

9   indicator field set.

1   21.   (Original)   The method of claim 20 further comprising:

2   d)   clearing the backup indicator field after the user data sector field has been

3   backed-up.

1   22.   (Original)   The method of claim 21 further comprising repeating b)-d) for

2   each subsequent backup.